

Pentagon Memorial Competition Stage One Board Text

Entry # 1717

Memorial Field/Memorial Unit

One hundred eighty four lives were lost in a single moment at the Pentagon – one hundred eighty four individuals forever tied together through the horrific events that unfolded one year ago.

Thousands of others lost their lives and suffered injury that day while millions wept.

September 11, 2001 was simply incomprehensible. It jolted us into a different world, a tragic reality that just didn't seem real.

This proposal envisions a memorial that simultaneously affords intimate and collective contemplation through silence within a tactile field of sensuous experience of a place radically different than what we encounter in our daily lives. In this light, the space itself serves as the memorial.

A MEMORIAL FIELD is inscribed with one hundred eighty four MEMORIAL UNITS. Each unit is dedicated to an individual victim – its placement and place within the collective field a unique instance. The field is organized as a timeline of the victims' ages, spanning for Dana Falkenberg, 3 years old, to John D. Yamnicky who was 71 years old. While each memorial unit located itself on its respective age-line, a random technique was developed to disperse the units between the children and adults – are clearly evident and meaningful, though infinitely interpretive.

Fifty-nine memorial units face one way; one hundred twenty five face the other – thus distinguishing victims on board American Airlines flight 77 from those who were inside the Pentagon.

Each memorial unit is accompanied by a red-purple broad-leafed tree – creating an interwoven canopy of color and light that floats above the tactile stabilized gravel field.

Elegant in its self-supporting form, the memorial unit is at once a glowing light pool, a cantilevered bench and a place for the permanent inscription of each victim's name. Using Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) technology, the cast, anodized aluminum memorial unit is easily produced and incredibly articulate.

Its structural cross-section not only reflects radiant light from the glowing pool of water onto the surrounding gravel field, but also allows that field to be continuous. By using the gravel as aggregate in the poured concrete, and

exposing it as such, the gravel field is interrupted only by moments of glowing light.

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